

Message Text

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ACTION OES-09

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CINCPAC HONOLULU

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FOR: VOA PGM/P PGM/R, EA/ANZ CINCPAC FOR USICA ADVISOR

EO 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ANTARCTIC CONVENTION

1. THE CHRISTCHURCH "PRESS" IN ITS LEAD EDITORIAL
ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, COMMENTED UNDER THE HEADING
"FAILURE ON ANTARCTIC CONVENTION":

2. "THE MEETING OF THE 13 ANTARCTIC TREATY NATIONS
WHICH ENDED LAST WEEK IN BUENOS AIRES WAS INTENDED TO BE
DECISIVE IN FORMULATING A CONVENTION TO PROTECT THE MARINE
RESOURCES. THE MEETING APPEARS TO HAVE ENDED CLOSE TO
FAILURE ON THIS SCORE. AS ONE OF THE CLOSEST COUNTRIES
TO THE CONTINENT OF ANTARCTICA, NEW ZEALAND HAS WHAT MAY
BE DESCRIBED WITHOUT EXAGGERATION AS A VITAL INTEREST
IN THE ACTIVITIES OF ALL COUNTRIES IN THE ANTARCTIC.

3. "THE LACK OF AGREEMENT IS SERIOUS BECAUSE A NUMBER
OF COUNTRIES PLAN TO EXPLOIT THE MARINE RESOURCES SOON,
POSSIBLY IN THE COMING SUMMER. ALREADY SOME LIMITED
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FISHING HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN AND VARIOUS COUNTRIES HAVE
CONDUCTED EXTENSIVE RESEARCH. THEY ARE NOW READY TO REAP
THE BENEFITS. ONCE THE EXPLOITATION IS UNDER WAY, THE
COMMERCIAL INTERESTS INVOLVED WILL MAKE AGREEMENT ON A
CONVENTION VERY MUCH HARDER.

4. "IF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY NATIONS THEMSELVES CANNOT

AGREE ON A CONVENTION, LITTLE HOPE CAN BE HELD FOR OBSERVANCE OF ANY RULES BY COUNTRIES WHICH ARE NOT SIGNATORIES OF THE TREATY. THE CONVENTION PLANNED AT THE MOMENT IS MAINLY FOR MARINE RESOURCES. AT SOME TIME MINERAL RESOURCES HAVE ALSO TO BE DEALT WITH. VARIOUS MEETINGS HAVE ALREADY CONSIDERED MINERALS. AGREEMENT ON A CONVENTION FOR MARINE RESOURCES WOULD HAVE GIVEN HOPE FOR THE CONCLUSION OF A MINERAL RESOURCES CONVENTION.

5. "NEW ZEALAND HAS TWO MAJOR INTERESTS IN THE MINERALS THERE. ONE IS THAT, AS A COUNTRY THAT CLAIMS TERRITORY IN THE ANTARCTIC, IT SHOULD REAP SOME BENEFIT FROM ANY MINING, PARTICULARLY OF HYDROCARBONS. SECOND, IT IS INTERESTED IN SEEING THAT MAJOR POLLUTION IS AVOIDED, PARTICULARLY ANY WHICH COULD HAVE AN EFFECT ON NEW ZEALAND ITSELF. THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD SPARE NO EFFORT IN PRESSING FOR CONVENTIONS TO COVER BOTH MARINE AND MINERAL RESOURCES OF THE ANTARCTIC." ANDERSON

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